Changes in the labour laws

†973. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to bring changes in labour laws so as to accelerate economic pace in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any suggestions etc. in this regard from the National Manufacturing Competitive Council and other Organization;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) With a view to making labour markets flexible, A "Discussion Paper" 'making labour market flexible' has been circulated among various stakeholders for eliciting their views. These, *inter-alia*, include:

(i) amendment in the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 by placing certain activity in a separate schedule so that provision of Section 10 may not apply to these, and by replacing the term "emergency" with the term "public interest" in Section 31 of the Act; and

(ii) amendment in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 by raising the number filter from 100 to 300 for applicability of chapter VB and raising the compensation ceiling payable to workers on retrenchment, and on closure of the establishment, from 15 days' average pay to 45 days' average pay for every completed year of continuous service or any part thereof in excess of six months subject to the condition that such retrenchment compensation shall not be less than 90 days of average wages; and by extending the applicability of Section 36B to all undertakings.

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†Original notice of question was received in Hindi.

(c) to (e) The views of the National Manufacturing Competitive Council and some other Organizations have been received. The comments of the other stake holders are still being received.

Employment exchanges in the country

†974. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise/employment exchange-wise total number of educational and professional unemployed registered in the records of different employment exchanges of the country as on 30th November, 2005;

(b) the district-wise number of unemployed persons increased in the country during the last three years till date; and

(c) whether Government have made any employement oriented policy in this regards; if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) State-wise distribution of educated (10th Standard and above) job seekers, all of whom are not necessary unemployed, registered with the employment exchanges in the country as on 31-12-2003 (latest available) is given in the Statement I (*See* below) District-wise and employment exchange-wise information not maintained.

(b) State-wise increase/decrease in the number of job seekers (educated and uneducated taken together) during the year 2003 as compared to 2001 is given Statement II (See below).

(c) Government is targeting creation of around 5 crore employment opportunities during the 10th Plan period: around 3 crore in the normal growth process and around 2 crore through special employment generation programmes. Besides, Government have passed the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 which aims at enhancing the livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to each rural household.

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†Original notice of question was received in Hindi.